Abstract

The present invention relates to a method of manufacturing with high production efficiency glass articles, such as high-quality preforms for press molding (press-molding preforms) from glass melt, and to a method of manufacturing glass elements, such as lenses, by press molding these preforms. Further, the present invention relates to a method of molding glass gobs suited to the press molding of preforms of high quality and high weight precision from a glass melt, and to a method of manufacturing optical elements by reheating and press molding these glass gobs. In the method of manufacturing glass articles, glass gobs are continuously separated from a glass melt flow continuously flowing out of a nozzle and the separated glass gobs are formed with glass forming members that are intermittently or continuously moving. In the method, a support member is made to approach the front end of the nozzle, the front end of the glass melt flow is received by the support member, and the support member is dropped more rapidly than the rate of flow of the glass melt flow to separate a glass gob from the glass melt flow; the separated glass gob is transferred from the support member to a stopped or moving glass forming member to mold a glass article; and in the case where the glass gob is moved to a stopped glass forming member, the period during which the glass forming member is stopped for transfer of the glass gob from the support member to the glass forming member is made shorter than the period required for one cycle of preparing one glass glob from the glass melt flow using the support member and moving the glass gob to the glass forming member.